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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1913.

WHOLE NO. 103

METAL TRADES CAMPAIGN

Washington, March 22.—The Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L., is doing some excellent work. President O'Connell addressed large mass meetings at Erie, Pa., and at Toledo, Ohio, recently. Through the efforts of the Metal Trades Department the Pattern Makers at the Norfolk Navy Yard have received an increase of 14 cents a day, making the first class rate $4 per day. The Molders have also received an increase of 24 cents, which makes their first-class rate $3.52. The Pattern Makers of the Brooklyn Navy Yard have secured an increase of 24 cents, which makes the first-class rate $4.48. The Machinists also received an increase of 24 cents for those members scheduled under the first-class rate, making it $4. While these increases were not recommended by the wage boards at their first sitting, at the instance of the officers of the Metal Trades Department the officials of the Navy Yard instructed the wage boards of both the Brooklyn and the Norfolk yards to reconvene and give further consideration to the question of increases in the several trades. The outcome of the reconvening of the boards is noted above. The Department has recently organized a Metal Trades Council in Birmingham, Ala., and Richmond, Va., and has reorganized the Council at Newport News, Va. The organizing campaign at Erie, Pa., being conducted by the Department, is progressing satisfactorily. Aside from the excellent work that the organizers have been doing among the Metal Trades they have been successful in organizing the Teamsters, Lathers, Blacksmiths, and Foundry Employes. Within the near future it is expected that organizations of Papermakers and Stationery Firemen will be secured. As a matter of fact, there is great activity among all classes of organized and unorganized workers.

SHEET METAL WORKERS.

Kansas City, Mo., March 22.—Secretary John E. Bray, of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers, states that within the past sixty days new locals have been organized and charted in Prince Albert, Sask.; Roanoke, Va.; Denver, Colo.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Bay City, Mich.; Kenosha, Wis.; Hyde Park, Mass.; Fairmont, W. Va., and Erie, Pa. The outlook for still further additional organizations within the near future is most encouraging. A recent strike of some 600 building trades employed on the Union Central Life Insurance Building in Cincinnati, Ohio, was declared, in support of a jurisdiction decision of the Building Trades Department, involving the installation of the hollow sheet metal doors and trim on the building. After a ten days' contest, the decision of the department was recognized by the contractor employing sheet metal workers to do the work referred to.

PRINTERS' FEDERATION.

Kalamazoo, Mich., March 22.—The employment bureau in connection with the Michigan Printers' Federation has proven a success, in that the local unions of the State are now informed as to the state of trade, and have been able to place a number of men who were out of work, or who wished to change. In a recent report issued a statement is made that Kalamazoo recently secured a new three-year agreement with a raise in wages. Port Huron Union also secured a three-year agreement with a raise all around. Pontiac secured a new scale and a two-year agreement. At present, Traverse City, Battle Creek and Houghton are negotiating for new scales. The next convention of the Michigan Federation of Typographical Unions will be held in Lansing, Mich., January 23 and 24.

RAILWAY CARMEN.

Kansas City, Mo., March 22.—Secretary William Weeks reports that a new lodge has been formed in Pennsylvania on one of the roads whose officials are hostile to organized labor and the place therefore is not designated. Another lodge has been formed at Newburg, Mo. The members of this organization employed by the Houston Terminal Company have succeeded in securing an agreement with a substantial increase in pay. The organization has also secured an agreement with the Intercolonial Railway of Canada, which provides for a shorter working day, better conditions and a substantial increase.

ILLS FROM INDUSTRY.

Philadelphia, March 22.—That industrialism is the principal cause of the filling of jails and insane asylums, the killing off of one-third of all babies in the first year of their life, and the restricting of other births, is declared by Dr. M. G. Schapp, professor of neuropathology at Cornell University, in an address here recently at the conference on mental hygiene. "Degeneration and race suicide increase with industrial supremacy and the stress of modern competition is the cause of much of the insanity. Employment of women in factories and the almost ceaseless activity demanded of all classes in efforts to retain their positions are leading causes in the breakdown of mental health."

FREIGHT HANDLERS MOVE UP.

Boston, March 22.—The Boston and Maine has acceded to the demand of its dock freight handlers to be paid time and a half for overtime and for work on Sundays and holidays. This is an adjustment of the one-day rest in seven problem, which will prove more effective than any direct prohibition without it. Make it for the financial interest of the corporation to employ men enough to do a week's work in six days of each man's working time, and we shall see an end of the ingenuous and unscrupulous evasions.

STRIKE ENDED.

Milwaukee, March 22.—The unorganized employes of a firm manufacturing auto trucks and automobile parts have won their strike. According to the terms of settlement, the employes will be paid time and a half for all work done after 5:30 p. m. on every day of the week, except on Saturday, when all work done after 4 p. m. will be paid for at time and a half. The strikers were successful in their demands to displace two of the foremen in the works, who were known as "speed kings." The strike has resulted in a strong organization, and the union will be attached to the Machinists.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATION.

Lansing, March 22.—The State Senate has passed resolutions for constitutional amendments providing for the initiative and referendum and recall. The recall does not include circuit and municipal judges or Supreme Court justices. The resolutions already have passed the House, but a few minor amendments were attached to them in the Senate, which makes necessary their return to the House of Representatives.

URGING INJUNCTION LAW

Trenton, N. J., March 22.—Secretary Morrison, Legislative Committeeman John A. Moffit, and Jackson H. Ralston, attorney for the American Federation of Labor, appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee of the State Legislature in advocacy of an injunction limitation bill, now before the State Senate. This bill has passed the House of Representatives with only one dissenting vote. This has aroused the Manufacturers' Association, and other hostile organizations to labor, and they are working diligently to defeat this meritorious measure. Secretary Morrison presented the views of the American Federation of Labor upon this question, as did also Attorney Ralston. One interesting feature of the proceedings was the attendance at the hearing of a large number of strikers from the Strauss Woolen Mills. Another incident is that the manufacturers are using the newspapers in opposition to the bill, an article appearing in one of the daily papers just subsequent to the hearing inveighing against the proposed law. The article is signed "A Manufacturer," the writer evidently not desiring to come out in the open and sign his name. It is believed that the bill will be reported to the Senate within a short time, and efforts are now being directed to the end that sufficient support be procured to pass the bill and send it to the Governor.

FARMERS AGAINST ORIENTALS.

Santa Rosa, Cal., March 22.—The farmers in this section are becoming alarmed over the state of affairs anent Oriental immigration. The farmers have organized a league and have given out the views of the league as follows: "Orientals are not wanted in the Cotati district of this country. Cotati has a progressive league, and at a largely attended meeting action was taken notifying real estate men and others that the league was opposed to Orientals being rented farms or allowed to buy homes in that section. The league further threatens to "withdraw its patronage" from any one who takes an opposite view. The Manufacturers' Association ought to get busy on this proposition, because the action of the league is a secondary boycott. As the Manufacturers' Association is a world regulator it ought not to overlook this splendid opportunity.

PAPERMAKERS GAINING.

Holyoke, Mass., March 22.—The officers and members of the local union of papermakers are highly pleased with the result of the six weeks' campaign for new members. A special dispensation reducing the initiation fee was taken advantage of by nearly 200 employes of the paper mills, who became members of the organization. The local union now is over ninety-five per cent strong, practically all of the men in the manufacturing departments of the mills in Holyoke having joined. The question of most importance before the papermakers is the extension of the eight-hour day in the remainder of the mills, and it is hoped that before the dull season and the low water comes on to have all mills working on the eight-hour basis.

DOING GOOD WORK.

Philadelphia, March 22.—Vigorous campaigning on the part of the organizing committee of the Building Trades Council has brought results. The amalgamation of the steamfitters has been accomplished. The amalgamation of the plasterers is practically concluded, and the electrical workers are being urged to settle their differences and all become members of the recognized international. In the latter case, however, the Reid faction is strenuously opposing the unifying of the electrical workers. It is confidently expected by the organizing committee that organizations with internal difficulties will soon reach a settlement and that the work will be continued until definite results are accomplished.

EXTRA SESSION.

Washington, March 22.—Congress will convene in extraordinary session on April 7. It is not positively known yet wether legislation of a general character will be considered by the extra session, the inference being that the tariff and monetary questions will be the chief ones to be taken up, although it will be necessary that the sundry civil bill, which was vetoed by President Taft in the closing hours of the Sixty-second Congress, be again introduced and disposed of in order that appropriations may be available beginning July 1 this year.

ST. PAUL NEWS.

St. Paul, March 22.—The local union of Electrical Workers has decided to open a vocational training school for electrical workers. Classes are to be formed, and it is planned to install machinery and apparatus for the purpose of giving illustrations in actual operation. These classes will be in charge of men who are qualified to handle the various technical subjects allied with electrical work. Ross R. Miller, a member of St. Paul Typographical Union, has accepted an appointment as a member of the school board. The Minnesota Union Advocate is authority for the statement that Mr. Miller possesses the essential qualifications which go to make up a competent public official.

ORGANIZE AND WIN.

Chicago, March 22.—The carpet and rug weavers employed by one of the large firms here organized and a strike followed. This contest lasted only four days, when a settlement was reached granting 20 per cent increase in wages, establishing a plan to adjust grievances in the future, by committees and further providing for arbitration when these committees fail to reach an adjustment on any matter in controversy. The organization and settlement were accomplished by organizers of the American Federation of Labor.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Washington, March 22.—During January and February, 1912, the American Federation of Labor issued thirty-four charters, chartering one department, eight central bodies, twenty-one local trade unions, and four Federal labor unions. For the same two months of 1913 a total of fifty charters were issued, including nine central bodies, thirty-two local trade unions, and nine Federal labor unions.

FORWARD MEETINGS.

Miami, Fla., March 22.—The Central Labor Union, of this city, through a committee, has inaugurated a plan to hold a series of meetings for the purposes of interesting nonunion workmen. The first meeting to be held will be on March 27.

SUGAR PLANT "SPEEDERS"

Salt Lake City, March 22.—During the effort made before the Legislature to secure an eight-hour day for the employes in the big sugar plants many interesting things were brought to light. The factories work their employes twelve hours a day and have a "speeding up" system in order to get the maximum amount of work from every employe. These factories also have a bonus system, through which 10 per cent is added to the wages providing the output for a twenty-four-hour run exceeds a certain number of sacks. For this toil the bulk of the employes receive the munificent wage of 18 cents an hour. The skilled workers are paid as follows: Firemen, 23 cents an hour; sackers, sewers, and truckers, 20 cents an hour. The Utah sugar plants are largely owned by the sugar trust. Another iniquitous plan in vogue is that the farmers have to wait a month for pay for their beets, and the employes have to wait a month for their wages. As a matter of fact the system of doing business in these factories is one which requires very little capital, the farmers and employes being compelled to wait until the finished product is marketed.

PACIFIC ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

San Francisco, March 22.—The differences between the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company and their electrical workers appears to be in a fair way of settlement. The employes ask for recognition of the wire chiefs, repeater men, testboard men, galvonometer men and facility men. A 50 cent per day increase, a weekly pay day and a preferential clause, giving preference to union men when obtainable. The company at first refused all the demands, but later granted a 25 cent increase to all branches of the trade. This offer was rejected, however, but the latest information is to the effect that the company has made further concessions and the new offer will again go to a vote of the men involved.

REFUSE CONFIRMATION.

Washington, March 22.—The extraordinary session of the United States Senate, adjourned sine die on March 17. Practically all of the President's nominations were confirmed with the exception of Dr. Charles P. Neill, who had received the appointment to succeed himself as Commissioner of Labor. Protests have been filed with the committee on education and labor, before which the nomination of Dr. Neill had been referred. It cannot as yet be even conjectured as to whether the protests filed will be sufficient to eventually defeat the confirmation of the appointee.

SWITCHMEN VOTE TO STRIKE.

Chicago, March 22.—The switchmen and switch tenders of nineteen railroads entering this city, have voted to strike if their demands are not met. The number involved is approximately 5,000 and they ask for shorter hours and time and a half for overtime. Mediation under the Erdman act will be sought. There has been a question raised relative to the legality of the Erdman act, since the creation of the new Department of Labor, but so far as this matter is concerned it is not believed that the creation of the new department has disturbed in any way the law commonly known as the Erdman act.

OHIO'S LIABILITY LAW.

Columbus, March 22.—Ohio's elective liability law has been in operation one year. The Supreme Court sustained the validity of this law, and in the twelve months referred to 1,022 employers became contributors to the State insurance fund. The total of $217,835 has been paid in and 59,000 employes protected. The annual pay roll is in excess of $40,000,000. The elective law will remain in operation until January 1, 1914, when the Green Compulsory Compensation Bill, recently passed, will go into effect.

CLEVELAND STEEL WORKS.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 22.—The efforts being put forth by the organizers of the American Federation of Labor to secure membership to the organization recently formed is meeting with success. While the Steel Trust is bitterly fighting against the organization of its employes, progress is being made. It is confidently expected that within a short time other organizations of this class of workers will be formed. Great interest is being taken in this campaign and the movement in Cleveland is giving all possible help to the organizers engaged in the work.

ST. JOSEPH NEWS.

St. Joseph, March 22.—The condition of organized labor in this city is reasonably good, with practically all of the miscellaneous crafts, as well as the building trades, being steadily employed at fair wages. The Carpenters have made a demand for an increase of their schedule from 45 cents to 50 cents per hour. A few of the contractors have refused to concede this small increase, but it is believed that an amicable settlement will be reached before the spring work opens up.

UNION MAN ON COMMISSION.

Washington, March 22.—John H. Marble has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Franklin K. Lane on the Interstate Commerce Commission. Mr. Marble has been secretary of the Interstate Commerce Commission during the incumbency of Franklin K. Lane. Mr. Marble is a printer and formerly worked at his trade in San Francisco, and is a member of San Francisco Typographical Union, No. 21.

HONORARY MEMBER OF UNION.

Washington March 22.—Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior Department in the present administration, was formerly Interstate Commerce Commisioner. He is a Canadian by birth, a lawyer by profession, and was years ago city attorney of San Francisco. Mr. Lane is also an honorary member of Typographical Union No. 21, San Francisco.

GOOD LEGISLATION.

Nashville, Tenn., March 22.—The Legislature of this State has passed a compulsory education bill, and also a measure creating a State department of workshops and factory inspection and providing for the appointment of a chief inspector. These two measures were championed by organized labor.

MARE ISLAND GETS FUEL SHIP.

Washington, March 22.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels has directed that the hull of the new naval fuel ship Manmee be constructed at the Mare Island (Cal.) Navy Yard.

TO PROSECUTE VIOLATORS

Chicago, March 22.—It has been stated in various quarters that the Federal government plans to institute a large number of suits against various railroads for violations of the sixteen-hour law. Evidence is now in the hands of the government in reference to many of these cases. By the sixten-hour law of 1907, railroads were relieved of responsibility for crews being on duty more than the legal length of time in cases of unavoidable causes. The roads apparently have taken advantage of this provision of the law, and now ascribe remote incidents as unavoidable delays.

GRANTS INJUNCTION.

Washington, March 22.—An injunction against the enforcement of the newspaper publicity law, attacked as unconstitutional, has been granted by the United States Supreme Court. It will be remembered that the Journal of Commerce, a New York publication, commenced suit to test the constitutionality of the law, requiring that all publications should report to the Government and also give publicity thereto relative to the stock and bond mortgage holders, their financial condition and circulation, and to label all reading advertisements as such. It seems that there was a tentative agreement between the former Postmaster General and the company entering the suit that no decisive action would be taken until the court had rendered a decision. Upon the incoming of the new Postmaster General a change in programme ensued and newspapers were informed that they must comply with the law, notwithstanding the agreement reached with the former Postmaster General. Hence the United States' Supreme Court has issued an injunction restraining the Postoffice Department from enforcing the law until the issues of the case have been determined by that court.

QUINCY CARPENTERS.

Quincy, Ill., March 22.—The third largest of the show case and fixture works manufacturing establishments in this city, which has held out against the striking woodworkers for several months, has abandoned the contest. An agreement has been entered into with the union, which resulted in the cessation of the strike so far as the company mentioned is concerned. Union men only are to be employed. The agreement specifies also that all imported nonunion men shall be dismissed, and that the strikers shall be taken back. There are still two factories on strike, but it is believed that the influence of the latest settlement will be sufficient to bring about an amicable agreement within a short time.

SHINGLE WEAVERS.

Seattle, March 22.—Since March 1, when extension of the jurisdiction of the shingle weavers was broadened to include all timber workers, there has been an increase in membership of over 1,000. Great hopes are entertained that during the year many times this number will come within the fold of the organization. The I. W. W.'s are endeavoring to make the efforts of the shingle weavers unsuccessful, but in spite of this fact the recognized organization is growing. The logging camps are beginning to resume operations after an unusually long close down, due to snow on the foothills. Shingle production in this State is about normal.

RECENT RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, March 22.—Twenty-one persons were injured, three of them probably fatally, when a passenger train on the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad was derailed six miles north of Marshalltown, Iowa, recently. Six persons were slightly hurt when three sleepers and one day coach of the Dixie Flyer, Chicago to Jacksonville, Fla., were ditched twenty-three miles south of Macon, Ga., on the Georgia, Southern and Florida tracks. Eleven persons were killed in a wreck on a Union Pacific pasenger train near Gothenberg, Nebr., many of them being buried under the wreckage.

CARPENTERS GET AGREEMENT.

Scranton, Pa., March 22.—The carpenters of this city have secured an agreement for three years with the Master Carpenters. It provides for the wages remaining unchanged for this year, the scale of 42 1-2 cents to be continued until January 1, 1914. It is then agreed that the Carpenters shall receive 45 cents an hour and in 1915 they will receive another increase to 47 1-2 cents per hour, and in 1916, the last year of the agreement, they are to receive 50 cents per hour. Provision is also made for a semi-monthly pay day.

STRIKE BREAKERS STRIKE.

Trenton, N. J., March 22.—A short time ago about 300 Italians, employed as truck men on the Pennsylvania Railroad, near this city, went on strike to secure a raise from $1.62 to $2 per day. Strike-breakers were brought in and the strikers' places filled. Now the strike-breakers have struck for a wage of $3 per day, and board. It is now necessary for the railroad company to employ doubled distilled strike-breakers.

DECATUR NEWS.

Decatur, Ill., March 22.—Two volunteer organizers of the American Federation of Labor have been successful in organizing several new unions during the past month. The latest one is the cement workers. All the cement workers became members, and the cement contractors are not antagonizing the organization. The stationary firemen also will be organized.

MOLDERS ASK INCREASE.

Pittsburg, March 22.—The Iron Molders of this city and vicinity have voted to demand 25 cents a day increase in wages, making the scale $4 a day instead of $3.75. The Molders expect to obtain the increase without any serious difficulty.

NEW BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL.

Danville, Ill., March 22.—A Building Trades Council has been formed in this city. The delegates to the new organization are enthusiastic over the prospects, and it is expected that all elligible crafts will be affiliated within a short time.

GET NEW AGREEMENT.

St. Paul, March 22.—The local Machinists' Union has just secured an agreement with the local breweries providing for 45 cents an hour as a minimum wage, including also better working conditions.

ADVANCE FOR STEEL MEN

Pittsburgh, March 22.—The puddlers and finishers connected with the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, for the third time during the current fiscal year have had their wages advanced through sliding scale settlements, which take place every sixty days. As a result of the latest settlement the puddlers' wages were advanced from $6.45 per ton to $6.60 per ton, which makes the total advance for that work 75 cents per ton during the current year. The finishers are now receiving 9 per cent above the base of the scale. Secretary Tighe asserts that the present status of affairs indicates the worth of the sliding scale of the Amalgamated Association. The new rate is operative in March and April and affects approximately 15,000 skilled mill workers. The increase here noted to the mill workers affiliated with the Amalgamated Association brings the wages up to the highest point, with one exception, in nearly seven years. The scale during July and August of 1907 reached $6.62 1-2.

TO ORGANIZE LABEL LEAGUE.

Tacoma, Wash., March 22.—The Cigarmakers' Union, of this city, has taken the preliminary steps toward calling a convention, to meet in Tacoma, April 13. Oregon and Washington are to be represented and the object is to organize a Northwest Blue Label League. There are ten local unions in the two States, and it is believed that a campaign of education among the working men of this district would result in vastly increasing the membership. The Farmers' Union and the Grange have pledged themselves to buy union made cigars for their co-operative stores. Within a radius of 100 miles of Tacoma there are 6,000 miners, nearly all of whom belong to the miners' union. The cigarmakers also propose to ask the international that an organizer be appointed for the district to be covered by the league.

BAR WOMEN.

Washington, March 22.—By rulings of the Department of Commerce and Labor just prior to the taking office of the new administration, women will not be permitted to accept employment as wireless operators either on ocean or lake vessels. The protest against women acting in such capacity was made by the president of the Commercial Telegraphers, J. S. Konekamp. In addressing a letter to the President he stated that until the unwritten law of the sea, "women and children first," was changed it would be absurd to permit women to act in such a responsible and dangerous occupation as operators on lake or ocean going vessels.

IN AND AROUND BOSTON.

Boston, March 22.—A union of ship caulkers has been organized in East Boston and charter applied for. The building trades controversy, which has been in existence in this city for many months, looks brighter for a settlement now than at any time during the past. Committees have been appointed for the purpose of conferring relative to the differences and these committees are hopeful of securing an adjustment. The American Tube Company, of Somerville, is running with about half its usual force, and the strikers are enthusiastic in their contest against this company. A central labor union has been organized at Somerville with a good charter membership.

ANOTHER LABOR TEMPLE.

Syracuse, March 22.—The labor temple committee of the Central Trades and Labor Assembly recently reported that it had received an offer from a resident of the city to finance the building of a new labor temple, giving the various members, the Trades Assembly, and trade unionists generally the opportunity of repaying the money advanced on liberal terms. It is confidently expected that a greater portion of the seventy-five local unions will subscribe for stock, and it is probable that the offer will be taken up immediately. There is to be an issue of 10,000 shares of stock at $10 per share.

DIRECT ELECTION OF SENATORS.

Washington, March 22.—According to unofficial reports thirty-two States have ratified the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, providing for the direct election of United States Senators. Delaware is the only State taking action upon this amendment that has acted unfavorably, the Senate of the State legislature having defeated the resolution passed by the House. It is, therefore, practically a foregone conclusion that this amendment will be eventually adopted and become a law of the land.

FOLLOW ILLINOIS EXAMPLE.

Chicago, March 22.—Lieut. Gov. O'Hara, chairman of the Illinois Senate Committee investigating white slavery, has received communications from the Governors of Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, informing him that they include in their next messages to the State Legislatures a recommendation for the appointment of a commission endowed with the same plenary powers as the commission appointed by the State Senate of the State of Illinois. The movement to investigate this evil is growing and is assuming large proportions.

TO HOLD CONFERENCE.

Toronto, March 22.—The local officers of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters are making preparations for the Ontario provincial conference to be held in this city on March 22. It is expected that the principal topic of discussion outside of the regular business will be workmen's compensation. The Brotherhood in this section has been augmented during the past year by some 1,000 members. In 1912 about $26,000 was paid out by the United Brotherhood, in death and disability benefits. During February 221 claims were acknowledged.

MINIMUM WAGE ADOPTED.

Olymphia, Wash., March 22.—A minimum wage law for women has been adopted by the State Legislature. The law provides for an Industrial Welfare Commission of five members, who shall investigate the industries employing women, and determine a minimum wage sufficient to give a woman employee a decent living, and this shall be fixed as the minimum wage in the industry affected.

TALK LABOR TEMPLE.

St. Thomas, Ontario, March 22.—The proposal to erect a building to house the labor organizations of St. Thomas is being favorably discussed. Three-fourths of the population is composed of working people, and a large proportion of these are connected with the labor organizations. The building proposed, if constructed, is to be an up-to-date and commodious labor headquarters.

ARE AGAINST COMPENSATION

Washington, March 22.—The liability companies have worked in devious ways to frustrate the purposes of workmen's compensation acts. A bulletin recently issued by the Wisconsin Industrial Commission states that the rates made by these companies are virtually prohibitive. This being the case mutual insurance by employers in Wisconsin combined in the Employers' Mutual Liability Insurance Company, of Wisconsin. This company adopted the classification of risks used by the liability companies, but made its rates 40 per cent of those scheduled and charged by the old-line companies. About one-third of the employers now under the compensation act are connected with the Mutual Company. Speaking of the success of the Mutual Company the bulletin states that it was able to carry to its resereve account 15 per cent of the premiums collected after making allowance for all compensation due or to become due for injuries received by workmen during the period covered. This indicates that its rates are sufficiently high, and also that the rates of the libaility companies are exorbitant.

GOING TO FIND OUT.

Washington, March 22.—There have been many conflicting stories relative to the financial condition of the Post-office Department, in that it has been stated that it is now self-sustaining, while this statement has been contradicted. In a recent interview the new Postmaster General asserts that he intends to find out for himself whether the post-office is on a self-sustaining basis. It has been charged that the means employed to reduce the cost of operation of the department has been through a reduction of the number of employes, notwithstanding an increased volume of mail matter. It is stated that a commission composed probably of the various Assistant Postmasters General and the chief clerk will make a thorough investigation, that the public may know the exact condition of the postal service.

BE ON LOOK OUT.

Washington, March 22.—The secretary of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America desires it to be understood that the Brotherhood is not sponsor for, nor interested in any souvenir or special programme publication of any kind. The secretary states that the reason for this statement is the fact that men in Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio, and several other places, have been soliciting advertisements from business men for a souvenir for the convention. As a matter of fact it is not now known whether a convention will be held, nor where. These matters will be settled by a referendum vote. One of these men referred to was convicted and fined in Cincinnati, and another arrested in Cleveland, but made good his escape. State Federations, Central Bodies and Local Unions should be on the alert.

WANT HOME INDUSTRY.

Spokane, March 22.—In an effort to satisfactorily substantiate its claim that a large amount of printing is being shipped into this city by local business concerns and individuals, the Allied Printing Trade Council has begun a collection of printed matter that has been procured in other cities and towns. The Allied Printing Trades Council has issued a report on the printing industry showing that 1,360 employes are employed by printing concerns and 4,671 people are dependent upon these employes for support; that $1,645,714 is invested in homes by the employes; that $2,508,717.80 is invested in the Spokane printing industry; that $1,599,861.04 was paid in salaries during 1912 to printing employes, and that the actual volume of business is $4,248,300.

PARCEL POST POPULAR.

Washington, March 22.—Over 10,000,000 more parcel post packages were mailed in February than in January, according to reports received at the Postoffice Department. The three cities doing the largest amount of business were Chicago, where 5,167,000 packages were sent and received; New York, 4,102,000 packages; and Boston, with 1,326,000 packages. The reports indicate that the mails are running with the usual dispatch, and that the use of the new system for farm produce is growing.

RAILROAD COMPANY SETTLES.

Pittsburg, March 22.—The strike at the Pittsburg and Lake Erie shops at McKees Rocks has been settled. The strike was inaugurated by the laborers of the car shops when they demanded 20 cents an hour, an advance of 3 cents. At a conference held the laborers and railroad officials compromised on 18½ cents an hour. The machinists and boilermakers went out to assist the laborers and they have also returned to their work.

VOTES FOR WOMEN WIN.

Boston, March 22.—Votes for women won its first victory in the Massachusetts Legislature recently. The House, which annually, since 1909, has rejected women's suffrage, by a vote of 127 to 79 substituted for an adverse committee report a resolution providing for the constitutional amendment which will strike out the word "male" from the constitution, defining the qualification of a voter. It will require a two-thirds vote to pass this measure to second reading.

WANT MORE WAGES.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 22.—The painters in this city have made a demand for 10 cents an hour raise, the same to take effect April 1. Owing to the absence of a number of the members of the Master Painters' Association, no agreement has yet been secured. International President Hedrick is expected to arrive here shortly and it is believed that an amicable agreement will be arrived at.

UNION FORMED.

Tacoma, Wash., March 22.—International Secretary Conway, of the Retail Clerks, together with an international organizer of that craft, have succeeded in establishing a local union in this city with over 150 members. The Retail Clerks' organization is actively engaged in this portion of the country in organizing, and splendid results are being achieved.

TINNERS MAKING PROGRESS.

Springfield, Mo., March 22.—After a vigorous campaign the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers have succeeded in obtaining an agreement with the manufacturers in this city to employ only members of the organization. The prospect for a large building season is good and the unionizing of the shops will be of great benefit to all concerned.

AFTER ARMOR PLATE TRUST

Washington, March 22.—Charging collusion between manufacturers of armor plate and a combination to increase the cost to the Navy Department of this essential portion of battleships, Senator Ashurst of Arizona, just prior to the adjournment of the United States Senate, took the initial steps looking to a rigid investigation of the concerns manufacturing armor plate for the United States government. The Senator offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Navy to send to the Senate a report showing the amount of armor plate used by the navy during the last twenty-five years, and the price paid for each lot per ton. "A very significant incident in this connection was brought to my attention when bids were received for armor plate for the Pennsylvania," said the Senator. "Bids were received from three companies. Representatives of these armor plate manufacturers stopped at the same hotel, and on the day the bids were opened they held a long conference. When these bids were opened they were found to be within $1 of each other. The lowest bid also was $25 a ton higher than the last previous contract for armor of the same grade and class. To my mind, this is conclusive proof that there is a combination, and that these concerns have agreed among themselves to increase the cost of armor and force the government to pay whatever price they say."

TO PROBE CAR LINES.

Washington, March 22.—The Interstate Commerce Commission has started an investigation into the operation of private car lines, which is considered to be one of the most important ever undertaken by that body, and one that is calculated by that commission to have a far-reaching effect. The Commission has received thousands of complaints with reference to private cars, and as in the case of express companies, which were made the target of widespread complaint, has decided to take up the whole subject in one investigation and base reforms upon the testimony adduced at the hearings to be given. It is stated from what seems to be authoritative sources, that the private car lines are being used as a means of paying rebates, and that shippers who do not own private cars are placed at a disadvantage thereby. There are 1,200 private car companies operated by such concerns as the Standard Oil Company, the various companies comprising the Beef Trust and other corporations of this character, which own their own cars, the railroads paying rental therefor. This plan of operation provides an opportunity for at least a question to be raised as to whether the rental of these cars does not come within the rebate class.

MAKING SETTLEMENTS RAPIDLY.

Boston, March 22.—Organizer McCarthy, of the American Federation of Labor, states that a settlement has been arrived at between the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association and the unions of the crafts employed, with between 4,000 and 5,000 people returning to work under an agreement which provides for the union shop, arbitration, a reduction in the hours of labor of about six per week, and an average increase in wages ranging from 5 per cent to 30 per cent. Added to the above number, 2,500 cloak and skirt makers have just returned to work under similar conditions. In addition to this, there are now about 7,000 employees in the manufacture of men's clothing, who for the first time in the history of the industry in this city are members of the United Garment Workers, and working under permanent union conditions. There are, however, quite a large number of the United Garment Workers still on strike.

JEWELRY WORKERS.

Jersey City, N. J., March 22.—The International Jewelry Workers' Union is preparing for the inauguration of a campaign of organization, and reports already received from the manufacturing jewelry centers of the country indicate that the workmen in this craft are seeking organization. This organization contains among its members many high skilled artisans, and wherever the organization of Jewelry Workers has been firmly established its members have received large benefits. It is confidently expected that within the next few months there will be many accessions to the ranks of the International Jewelry Workers' Union.

WINDOW GLASS WORKERS.

Pittsburg, March 22.—The Window Glass Workers will be paid an advance in wages over that received in February. This is due to an agreement between the wage committees of the Window Glass Workers and the manufacturers. The scale of wages is based upon the selling price, and as that price has advanced the skilled workers on single strength glass received an increase of 2 1-2 cents, and 4 1-2 cents advance was acceded to the workers on double strength. This makes the third wage advance granted to the Window Glass Workers recently.

A LIVE ORGANIZATION.

Galesburg, Ill., March 22.—The local division of street railway men was formerly composed solely of motormen and conductors. During a recent organizing campaign efforts were put forth to secure every employe of the road, and as a result the barnmen and trackmen, linemen, power-house employes and the teamsters have joined the local union. The road is now a thoroughly union one, every man employed by the company being a member of Division 515.

WIDOW GETS YEAR'S SALARY.

Washington, March 22.—A check for $1,320 has been forwarded by the government to Mrs. Cora Evans, of Scranton, Pa., widow of Joseph E. Evans, a rescuer employed by the Bureau of Mines, who lost his life at a mine fire at Throop, Pa., last year. The sum sent to the widow represents one year's salary of the rescuer, and was granted by a special act of Congress on the recommendation of the director of the Bureau of Mines.

SUFFRAGE BILL DEFEATED.

Lincoln, Nebr., March 22.—The House of Representatives in the Nebraska Legislature has defeated a bill for a constitutional amendment granting the ballot to women. It is asserted that the women of the State will organize and have the question submitted to a vote in the 1914 election, under the recently adopted initiative and referendum.

SUSPENDER WORKERS STRIKE.

Philadelphia, March 22.—The suspender trimmers of this city have struck against several firms, but principally against one firm whose employes went out two weeks ago.